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Identical letters dated 26 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

Throughout the three years of the Syrian crisis, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has drawn the attention of the Secretary-General and successive Presidents of the Security Council to documented information regarding the actions of and the violations committed by the Turkish Government. Those actions and violations have threatened the security, safety and stability of the Syrian Arab Republic. Turkey has been coordinating, receiving, funding and hosting tens of thousands of terrorists who belong to a variety of takfirist movements. It has also facilitated their entry into Syrian territory and provided them with rear bases in its own territory. When the Turkish regime's efforts to undermine Syria failed, the Turkish Army, acting on instructions from the Head of the Turkish Government, embarked on a blatant campaign of aggression against Syria. Turkish Army tanks and artillery participated directly in an attack against Kassab, which is located in northern Syria, and the surrounding area. Aware of the threat that this action presented to regional security, Syria immediately drew the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to the matter in identical letters dated 21 March 2014. In order that you might have a solid and credible picture of Turkey's aggression against Syria and its support for terrorist groups, we should like to convey to the Secretary-General and the President and members of the Security Council the following documented information:

- At 0200 hours on Friday, 21 March 2014, Turkish military forces that were positioned near Kassab, Ladhiqiyah governorate, opened fire on Syrian Arab forces in Kassab and the surrounding area using tanks, artillery and heavy machine guns. Following this barrage, armed terrorist gangs that were positioned in Iskenderun province attacked Syrian military positions in Kassab. This attack was facilitated and supported by the Turkish Army. To date, the armed terrorist groups that entered into certain parts of that area continue to receive artillery support and combat supplies from the Turkish side.

- At 1315 hours on 23 March 2014, a MiG-23 aircraft belonging to the Syrian armed forces that had been carrying out a mission in the Kassab area was shot down by a Turkish warplane using a guided missile. The Syrian aircraft was attacked as it reached its target, which was some 4 kilometres from the border between Iskenderun province and Ladhiqiyah governorate. It fell in the

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Ladhiqiyah countryside, some 7 kilometres from the border. The Syrian Mission in New York will provide you with relevant data from the radars that monitor the skies in that area that will confirm the information above.

- At 1850 hours on 23 March 2014, two Turkish ships positioned some 2 kilometres north-west of the Samra post, which lies next to Iskenderun province, fired on the Syrian post at Samra, causing several deaths and injuries and substantial material damage to the building. This attack was carried out to provide cover for a ground assault by Nusrah Front terrorists against the above-mentioned post. The terrorists launched their attack from inside Iskenderun province at the same time as the Turkish barrage of the post began. As of the morning of 26 March 2014, the Turkish Army continues to facilitate the entry of armed individuals heading towards Kassab and Samra, and to remove those who were killed or wounded from the area using Turkish medical vehicles.

In addition to being a military aggression against a founding Member State of the United Nations, Turkey's direct involvement, which continues to the date of the present letter, is yet another manifestation of the Turkish policy of supporting terrorism in Syria that has been in place since the outset of the crisis, including the blatant support that Turkey has provided to the Nusrah Front, a group that is included in the list of terrorist entities maintained by the Security Council.

All international instruments concerning counter-terrorism and the elimination of Al-Qaida, the most significant of which are Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), prohibit States from cooperating with terrorist organizations associated with Al-Qaida and call on them to refrain from providing such organizations with any assistance for their activities. Those instruments also require States to take a series of measures, including those set out in resolution 1989 (2011), paragraphs 1 (b) and (c), calling on States to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of these individuals.

It has been conclusively proven that the vast majority of the armed terrorists who attacked Kassab are members of the Nusrah Front, which is affiliated with Al-Qaida, and that the Turkish Army provided this group with direct logistical and military support. At its meeting of 30 May 2013, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) decided to include the Nursah Front for the People of the Levant in the Al-Qaida Sanctions List. Accordingly, that group is subject to the sanctions imposed by the United Nations on Al-Qaida. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic therefore calls on the Security Council and its Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) to condemn without delay this grave development and compel the Turkish Government to halt is aggression. We also call on the Council to hold the Turkish Government accountable for its actions and its systematic support of terrorism in Syria. Unless those States that support terrorism in Syria renounce their policies, the effects of terrorism will not be confined to Syria, but rather will extend to the region and beyond and undermine international counter-terrorism efforts.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative